

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 28-31 stand rejected and claims 3-6, 9-20, 22, 25 and 27 stand objected to. By virtue of this response, claims 2 and 29 are cancelled and claims 1, 3, 10, 15, 21, 25, 28, and 31 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-28, 30, and 31 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-6, 9-20, 22, 25 and 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 15 and 25 have been amended to include limitations of the base claims and intervening claims and are now believed to be allowable. Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to include some, but not all, of the features of claim 3 and is believed to now be allowable over the rejections for the reasons that follow.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 28-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Leonhardt et al. (6,084,740) (hereinafter "Leonhardt").

A. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 24, and 26

Applicants respectfully submit that Leonhardt does not disclose or suggest a method of positioning a selected recording channel on a recording head relative to an optical servo system as recited in amended claim 1. In particular, Claim 1 recites a method for aligning an optical servo system to a recording channel in the read/write assembly including "processing an alignment tape...to determine an offset, wherein the alignment tape includes a track of longitudinal equally spaced apart alignment voids, and processing includes writing a track of data to the alignment tape over the alignment voids." Such a method is not disclosed or suggested by Leonhardt.

In contrast to the recitation of claim 1, Leonhardt discloses an optical servo system that operates with a tape that has data tracks written on a recording side (first side) of the tape and optical servo tracks formed on the back side (second side) of the tape. (Leonhardt: col. 4, ln. 11-23; col. 4, ln. 41-47). Accordingly, Leonhardt fails to disclose or suggest a method for positioning a selected recording channel to an optical servo system in a read/write assembly as recited by claim 1, e.g., including processing an alignment tape, wherein processing includes writing a track of data to the alignment tape over the alignment voids.

Accordingly, the rejection to claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 24, and 26 should be withdrawn and claims 2-14, 24, and 26 should be allowed.

B. Claims 21 and 23

Initially, Applicants note that claim 21 has been amended to independent form and includes the features of original claim 1.

The Examiner states with regard to claim 21 that “multiple beams of light are directed onto the tape and read/write head to determine optical signals [], a timing difference is determined between multiple optical signals [].” (citations omitted). Applicants submit, however, that Leonhardt fails to disclose or suggest processing an alignment tape, wherein processing includes “moving the recording head across the tracks in a motion perpendicular to a motion of the alignment tape,” as recited by claim 21. Further, Applicants note that the Examiner has not alleged that Leonhardt discloses this feature.

Accordingly, the rejection to claims 21 and 23 should be withdrawn, and claims 21-23 allowed.

C. Claims 28 and 29

Claim 28 has been amended to include the features of claim 29 and claim 29 has been cancelled.

Applicants submit that Leonhardt does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 29 nor is Leonhardt alleged to disclose all the feature of claim 29 in the Office Action. In particular, Leonhardt does not disclose or suggest an alignment tape for positioning a selected recording channel of a recording head relative to an optical servo system in a read/write assembly wherein “the track of alignment voids is formed by ablation by a pulsating laser beam of sufficient power to penetrate the back major surface through to the front major surface leaving visible the flexible plastic substrate of the alignment tape.” Although Leonhardt discloses using a laser beam at column 7, lines 16-39, there is no disclosure or suggestion of using sufficient power to penetrate the back major surface through to the front major surface as recited. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 28 allowed.

D. Claims 30 and 31

Regarding claims 30 and 31, Applicants submit that Leonhardt does not disclose “storing the lateral offset,” as recited by claim 30. The Examiner cites to col. 6, lines 35-49 of Leonhardt (“the stored image”) in support of the rejection. Applicants respectively disagree and submit that Leonhardt fails to disclose or suggest determining a lateral offset between the optical servo system and the selected recording channel and storing the lateral offset. Leonhardt discloses merely analyzing “the image data ... to yield an accurate measurement of the magnetic head position” (col. 6, lines 24-49; see also, col. 6, line 50 to col. 7, line 53). Further, the stored “reference signals” disclosed by Leonhardt are based on “typical signals experienced by many such tape drives,” and are not lateral offset values (col. 6, lines 45-49).

Accordingly, the rejection to claims 30 and 31 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 249212014000. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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